(b) whether Government have any proposal to expand trade relations with USA;

(c) if so, whether new areas have been identified for this purpose; and

(d) the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The United States of America is India's largest trading partner and foremost export destination for Indian goods and services and also one of the major sources of foreign investment in India. The two-way trade structure comprises a large number of traditional and manufatured goods, which has also undergone changes over the years.

(b) to (d) Trade facilitation is a continuous and ongoing process. Efforts are regularly made to expand and diversify trade through various trade promotion measures. Information Technology, Biotechnology, High Technology Trade and other knowledge-based industries are a few new identified thrust areas.

Trade and Economic cooperation between India, Russia, China and Germany

1855. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade and economic cooperation between India, Russia, China and Germany have been on increase since the year 2002 onwards;

(b) if so, whether large number of joint project with Russia, China and Germany have been undertaken currently;

(c) whether the trade growth with Germany, China and Russia are continously improving and details of agreement signed with these countries;

(d) if so, what extent trade with these countries have been improving for the last three years; and

(e) to what extent the steps are being taken to improve the trade and economic relation with these countries further?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of joint projects currently undertaken are:—

Russia:

* Kudankulam Project for setting up a Nuclear Power Project in Tamil Nadu.
* BRAHMOS to design, develop, produce and market a missile system.
* Sakhalin for development of the Sakhalin-I oil field in Russia as joint venture between ONGC Videsh with Russian Company Rosneft.

China:

* Long term arrangement Agreement for export of iron-ore to steel plants in China between the Indian Ministry of Steel and the China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Mineral & Chemicals Imports & Exporters.

Germany:

* Indo-German Export Promotion Project (IGEPP) to facilitate Indo-German and Indo-EU Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation involving placement of German specialists and experts for providing assistance in upgradation of Indian Industry for supply of quality products to EU and German markets.

(c) Bilateral trade with these countries is continuously improving and the bilateral agreements signed with these countries, *inter-alia*, relate to:

* China's accession to Bangkok Agreement.
* Recognition of India as an approved destination status by China for tourism purposes.
* Bilateral Investment Protection, Double Taxation Avoidance and various sectoral agreements with Germany.
* Setting up of an Indo-German Export Promotion Project.

(d) Details of bilateral trade with these countries during the last 3 years are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(e) Steps being taken to improve the trade and economic relations, *inter-alia*, are:

* Promotion of dialogue/discussions at the highest levels.
* Constant review of bilateral trade at the Government level through Joint Commission/Economic Group/Sub Group meetings.
* Promotion of direct business contacts by way of exchange of delegations.
* Holding of and participation in exhibitions, trade fairs, buyer-seller meets, etc.

Statement

Details of India's trade with Germany, Russia and China during the last three years.

(Figures in million US$)

		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Germany	Exports	1733	1884	1777
			(8.7)	(-5.7)
	Imports	1842	1749	2029
			(-5.0)	(16.0)
	Total Trade	3575	3633	3806
			(1.6)	(4.8)
China	Exports	539	829	923
			(53.8)	(11.3)
	Imports	1287	1492	2032
			(15.9)	(36.1)
	Total Trade	1826	2321	2955
			(27.1)	(27.3)
Russia	Exports	948	869	784
			(-8.3)	(-8.6)
	Imports	623	516	537
			(-17.2)	(3.9)
	Total Trade	1571	1385	1331
			(-11.8)	(-3.9)

Figures in brackets are percentage change over previous year.